

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 SS-15 AGRE-00 LAB-04 HEW-06
HUD-02 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 COME-00 NAS-01 NSF-02
OPIC-06 FAA-00 ERDA-07 NSC-05 /077 W
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P 301034Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 667

UNCLAS TEHRAN 12899

PLS PASS TO HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: USIRJC
SUBJ: HOUSING WORK GROUP

REF: STATE 308210

1. ACTING ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED ALTERNATIVES LISTED REFTEL WITH SIMONIAN. SIMONIAN APOLOGIZED THAT MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATION WOULD BE UNABLE TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND DALLAS FOR HOUSING WORKING GROUP MEETING AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ON HOME BUILDERS(NAHB) SHOW. SIMONIAN EXPLAINED THAT NEWLY FORMED IMPERIAL COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE WASTAGE AND UNNECESSARY SPENDING OF GOI REQUIRES ALL SUCH VISITS BE REVIEWED AND STATED FRANKLY THAT NO FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL BY SUCH A DELEGATION UNTIL AFTER NO-RUZ(IRANIAN NEW YEAR), IN LATE MARCH.

2. SIMONIAN BELIEVED THAT HUD SUGGESTION OF SINGLE SUB-MINISTERIAL DELEGATE FOR WORKING LEVEL TALKS AND IRANAIN REPRESENTATION AT NAHB SHOW HAD A BETTER CHANCE OF APPROVAL THAN THREE-MAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATION. SIMONIAN REQUESTED ACTING ECON/COMM COUNS TO FORWARD TO MINISTRY OF HOUSING A LETTER WHICH HE COULD SHOW TO INITIATE REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO SEND SUCH A DELEGATE. LETTER WAS DRAFTED AND DIS-UNCLASSIFIED

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PATCHED IMMEDIATELY. APPROVAL TO SEND DELEGATE WILL REQUIRE CONSENT OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THERE, SIMONIAN CLAIMS, MINIMUM OF TEN DAYS BEFORE HE WILL KNOW. EMBASSY WILL NOTIFY HUD AS SOON AS REPLY RECEIVED.

3. SIMONIAN ALSO PROMISED TO INSTRUCT STAFF TO PREPARE

"SHOPPING LIST" OF HOUSING COMPONENTS SUGGESTED REFTEL IN CASE WORKING LEVEL DELEGATE CANNOT VISIT U.S. AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY STILL ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT HEYDAYATI RE MORTGAGE SEMINAR. SIMONIAN HAS PROMISED HIS ASSISTANCE IN GETTING HEYDAYATI OFF DIME. EMBASSY WILL NOTIFY HUD AS SOON AS INFO AVAILABLE.

4. RE PARA 5 REFTEL, EMBASSY REALIZES THAT GOI DELAYS IN RESPONSE TO HUD COMMUNICATIONS CREATE ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS IN WASHINGTON. DEPARTMENT AND HUD SHOULD NOT RPT NOT ASSUME THAT GOI IS NOT GENUINELY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUP SESSION OR HOLDING SEMINARS. ALL AGENCIES OF GOI ARE EXPERIENCING BUDGET RESTRICTIONS IN FINAL MONTHS OF IRANIAN FISCAL YEAR (JAN,FEB, EARLY MARCH) AS RESULT OF IMPERIAL COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE WASTAGE AND UNNECESSARY SPENDING. AMONG FIRST ITEMS CUT FROM MINISTRY BUDGETS HAVE BEEN THOSE REQUIRING DELEGATION TO TRAVEL ABROAD OR BRINGING FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO IRAN. GOI OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH HUD PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY IMPRESSED WITH HUD PRESENTATIONS AT AUGUST MEETING AND THROUGH SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATIONS. ALTHOUGH OVEROPTIMISM SHOULD BE AVOIDED, EMBASSY BELIEVES SUBSTANTIVE OFFICIALS IN MINHOUSING AND MORTGAGE BANK SINCERELY DESIRE TO CONTINUE WITH PROPOSED PROGRAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CURRENT GENERAL BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS, HOWEVER, REQUIRE HIATUS IN SUCH COOPERATION UNTIL AFTER BEGINNING OF NEW IRANIAN FISCAL YEAR, I.E., MID-MARCH 1977.

MIKLOS

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